

Good morning,

I am a CCDL member. I am writing to urge you to reject H.B. 6355. This law will be even more open to abuse than the current law. This is very important to me because I am a minority and grew up in an immigrant family. I also know the history of how many gun laws were abused to disarm "undesirables". For people spending the year of 2020 discussing how concerned they were with laws negatively impacting minority communities, just imagine how much abuse can be caused with these risk protection order laws. All it takes is a racist roommate, a bitter mother-in-law, or an overly emotional casual dating partner to create a nightmare for peaceful gun owners without any proof or due process. Someone can have their property confiscated and rights denied simply because someone else double (who can make false claims out of revenge) feels that in the future they might perhaps do something bad. Fraudulent claims have already happened under current law and the proposed law does not have any penalties to punish people who lie. Additionally, after confiscation the burden will be placed on the firearm owner to prove why their firearms should be returned. This is an expensive legal process that requires lawyers. If one is concerned with the impact of the criminal justice system on minority communities, this will create a heavy burden on those who can least afford it.

Furthermore, the law makes people guilty before proven innocent and does not have penalties to punish false claims. This law will also make people unwilling to go to mental health professionals that are more effective at preventing suicide than gun confiscation. This level only make people afraid and stigmatize peaceful gun owners who need help. If a medical professional truly feels that someone is a danger, they already have the ability to do an involuntary commitment in the face of immediate danger to the individual or others.

This is fundamentally against due process and against the fourth amendment. If "safety" is a justification for throwing garment limitations out the window, then why have any government limitations at all? Virtually every restriction on government power make society more "dangerous" and is there to prevent abuse. Removing these restrictions opens up the door to the abuse that they were created to prevent in the first place.

If someone is not dangerous enough to be arrested, committed, or placed in jail, then stripping them of their rights is wrong. Punishing people for pre-crimes is not the American way. Please consider these points and do not support H.B. 6355.

Thank you,  
Gabriel daSilva